

Laing SG (Shirley)

From: Byrne G (Gerald)
Sent: 29 June 2004 15:09
To: Laing SG (Shirley); McKinlay FE (Fiona)
Subject: FW: Petitions committee criticism - List D

Oh dear.

I think we thought we had had an assurance from the Committee this wouldn't happen. Fiona, can you recall from whom?

I blame myself for being on sick leave.

-----Original Message-----

From: MacKay MJ (Marion)
Sent: 29 June 2004 14:48
To: Minister for Education and Young People; Byrne G (Gerald); MacLean CR (Colin)
Subject: Petitions committee criticism - List D

1 SCOTLAND Ministers

PA are running this copy following this morning's Petitions Committee meeting.

I've spoken to FM's office and he has not yet seen the List D papers.

However, this coverage means the issue may well be picked up by other media before Sunday, particularly if MSPs decide to brief it.

Marion

(ScotFile:Parly special)
 MSPs SLAMMED FOR SLOW RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS
 By Joe Quinn, Political Editor, Scottish Press Association
 Ministers were today rapped for dragging their heels over replying to an influential Holyrood committee.
 The rebuke came at a meeting of the Public Petitions Committee after MSPs heard of delays in replying on two subjects - Gulf War syndrome and on a call for an inquiry into past cases of child abuse
 The call for an inquiry into past cases of 'institutional child abuse', particularly of children in the care of the state in homes run by religious orders, had been made in a petition to Parliament two years ago.
 The petitioners also wanted unreserved apologies both from the state and from the religious orders.
 But despite reminders, no substantial reply had yet been received either from First Minister Jack McConnell or from education minister Peter Peacock, the committee heard today.
 SNP Linda Fabiani told fellow members of the committee: 'I am really angry about this